Collaboration for Integrated Water Resources Management

"Assessments of Collaborative Planning Approaches Across the Corps and other Federal Agencies"

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Practitioner Perspectives in Collaboration

- Involving Stakeholders and the Public in Planning Studies is required.
- Why aren’t we more effective at it?
- What is the state-of-the-art?
  - Evolution of Public Involvement and Collaborative Planning in the Federal Sector.
  - How has the practice evolved in the Corps of Engineers?
  - Case Study examples.

Federal Sector Governing Laws & Regulations

- 1946: Administrative Procedures Act
- 1964: Economic Opportunity Act
- 1966: Demonstration Cities & Metropolitan Development Act
- 1966: Freedom of Information Act
- 1969: NEPA
- 1972: Federal Advisory Committee Act
- 1972: Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- 1977: Government in the Sunshine Act
- 1986: Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
- 1996: Administrative Dispute Resolution Act
- 1996: Executive Order 12988 – Civil Justice Reform

Current Public Agency Policies – Year Created

- Bonneville Power Administration: 1986
- Bureau of Land Management: 2001
- Bureau of Reclamation: 2000
- Department of Defense: N/A
- Department of Energy: 2003
- Department of Interior: In Progress
- Environmental Protection Agency: 2003
- Forest Service: 2005
- Tennessee Valley Authority: N/A
- National Park Service: 2004
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: 1980s
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission: N/A

Public Agency Public Participation/Collaborative Planning Policies

- Background & Definitions
- Initiatives of Current Administration
- Summary of Public Agency Policies
- Interview Summaries
- Consultant’s Analysis
- Corps of Engineers’ Policy Options
- US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
- 19 Appendices

Case Studies in Collaborative Planning

Steven Pugh, Baltimore District

Lessons from the practicing community across Corps missions and geographic regions.

Case Study Objectives

- Provide Lessons Learned
- Identify Successful Collaborative Frameworks
- Identify Useful Tools, Methods & Approaches
- Identify Training Successes & Needs
- Identify Potential Future Needs

Case Studies in Collaborative Planning

- Willamette Basin, NWP, Matt Rae
- Eugene/Springfield Watershed Study, NWP, Eric Bluhm
- Illinois River Basin, MVR, Brad Thompson
- Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, SAJ, Cheryl Urlich
- Poplar Island, NAB, Scott Johnson
- Va Shly'Ay Akimel Salt River, SPL, Kayla Eckert Uptmor
- Southwest HGM Model, SPL, Kayla Eckert Uptmor
- Padeto Pass, SAM, Larry Parson
- Ala Wai Canal, POH, Derek Chow

Case Study Approach

- Breadth of Case Studies
  - Across MSC's
  - Across Major Geographic Regions
  - Across Major Mission Areas
  - Across A Range Funding Scales
- Depth of Case Studies
  - Collect Background Material
  - Conduct Personal Interviews
  - Conduct Follow-up Discussions

Project/Study Focal Points

All Projects/Studies had Multiple Objectives to Some Extent

- Watershed Studies
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- Deep Draft Navigation
- Inland Navigation
- Flood Damage Reduction
- Recreation
- Reservoir Operations
- Water Quality
- Regional Sediment Management
- Water Supply
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Lesson # 1
Prepare for Collaboration

- When asked if they were prepared for taking on a complex collaborative effort, most said, “YES”
- When asked how they developed the necessary skills they said:
  - On the job training
  - Mentoring
  - Formal training

Lesson # 1
Prepare for Collaboration

- When asked if they had advice for less experienced planners starting a new study they suggested:
  - An experienced team member is <u>necessary</u>
  - Options could include:
    - Someone within the District
    - Non-Federal Partner
    - Consultants
    - Professional Facilitation

Lesson # 2
Plan for Collaboration

- Develop a collaboration strategy
- Include strategy in Project Management Plans or similar documentation
- Incorporate strategy in schedule and budget preparation
- Proactively identify stakeholders
- Actively incorporate appropriate groups and agencies into the process

Lesson # 3
Establish a Collaboration Framework

- One size does not fit all
- Identify group/committee structure (s)
- Clearly define roles & responsibilities
- Establish a communication plan
- Clearly define the decision making process (avoid creating false/unrealistic expectations)
- Document the above: PMP’s, SOP’s, SOW, POS, Charter, etc.
- Document decisions as you go

Lesson # 4
Remain Committed to the Collaborative Process

- Encourage full participation
- Embrace diverse view points
- Seek to understand agency and stakeholder agendas & constraints
- Be as flexible as possible within appropriate constraints
- Strive not to be “self-limiting”
- Maintain an open decision making process

QUESTIONS ?